



## Proposal for paper for the 3rd International Conference of the International Society for Child Indicators

### Title of paper

A strategic approach to data and research – implications for Children's Services Committees in Ireland.

### Abstract

This paper sets out the strategic direction being taken towards data and research on children's lives by the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA) and the implications for this approach for how information is being used to inform development of children's services at local level through examination of case studies among 6 Children's Services Committees.

The OMCYA are preparing a National Data and Research Strategy on Children's Lives in fulfilment of a commitment in the social partnership agreement Towards 2016, (Department of the Taoiseach, 2006). This project aims to set out a strategic approach to improving understandings of children's lives and to identify and agree the steps to be taken to achieve the availability of good quality, easily accessible, internationally comparable information about children in Ireland which will be used to improve their lives and the services that surround them. The strategy is underpinned by a socio-ecological conceptualisation of children's lives and takes its thematic structure from a key policy document around children's services, *The Agenda for Children's Services*. It is guided by key principles of: collaboration and linkage; a focus on policy and practice concerns; the reflection of the complexity and multi-dimensionality of children's lives; a focus on methodology; and privileging the voice of children. This paper sets out the key elements of this strategic approach and discusses issues around their implementation in the 6 local sites under consideration.

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